

Aaron and Annegret Bowes “And you shall be witnesses to Me...” in Germany

June 2024

Dear Praying Friends,

“Please save us from a life in front of the T.V.” is more or less the cry we hear from people living in Halle-Neustadt. Some refer to it as “our Ghetto” or “solitary confinement”. The make-up of our apartment block district is mainly low-income, refugees and elderly. With the elderly, in many cases a spouse has already passed, relationships have long since ended, children have moved away to west Germany for better jobs etc. People are left without a lot of friends and social contacts. So our gospel witness (together with our team) starts by showing love and compassion and trying to meet the needs. Here are some **short testimonies** from our Sunday Afternoon Fellowship: **Ingrid and Renate** both attend regularly, they live alone in apartments and said matter-of-factly: “What else are we supposed to do on Sundays!” **Ulrich** calls himself an atheist and we always respect him. He is older and in the past has gone through separation and has no contact with former family. But he comes faithfully each Sunday. Ulrich signed up for our Christian retreat in August. Since then, he asked several times: “Are you sure I am on the list?” The personal contact and fellowship is so important to him. **Werner**, age 87, is a widower, he dashes over to our meeting on his electric scooter. He is a very nice person and had an interesting life working in the East German railway system. He says that in his block people come and go, close their doors and don’t really talk to their neighbors. He has a basic Christian faith and said several times, “I don’t just come for the food!” He is thankful for the Word and the fellowship. **Please pray** for our older guests. They are quite able to understand the gospel and be saved. Since we came to Halle we have witnessed salvations and baptisms also among older folks. PTL! And recently **Ulf**, a friend from the Mission who attends our meetings, requested believer’s baptism. He is older and is now in the hospital, so we have to wait on his request. **(Pictures: Werner in front of our meeting place and one of the blocks).**



Our **church retreat** is planned for **August 13-15** in a village called Schmannewitz in nearby Saxony at a Christian Guest House. We have two Christian couples helping us and around 32 guests from the Soup Kitchen and Mission who signed up. And they are very excited already. We will offer a nice program of fun activities, including an evening barbecue and of course devotional times as well. We have permission to use the quaint old village church for our closing service at our retreat. And in this regard a huge word of THANKS to GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH in Cedarville who gave from their harvest offering to help send people to camp. As mentioned, most of our guests are low-income and cannot afford a vacation. Often we hear comments like “We are so glad to get away and get out of the blocks!” **Please pray** for spiritual revival at our retreat.

In May a dear friend and long-time supporter, Audrey Bergen from Cedarville, passed and went to heaven. Harmon and Audrey helped bring Anne to Cedarville, where Anne taught German and prepared for missions. Without such faithful friends and supporters mission work would not be possible. The picture is from last spring on furlough in Cedarville, we had many nice visits with Audrey and even a trip to Young’s Dairy together. These are the real heroes of the faith and we want to honor her.



A big **PRAISE** and highlight was that we could help with another service at the Train Station Mission in Halle on “Pfingsten” (Pentecost Sunday), which is still an official holiday in Germany. We just have a small room at the Mission, but it was quite full and some were really spoken to by the music and message. As we mentioned, the Mission mainly has a food program and does not have a regular service, just on holiday weekends. But some of our friends from the Mission now regularly attend our Sunday Afternoon Soup Kitchen Fellowship.

(Pictures: Service in the Mission, Steffen from the Mission reading the Scripture at our Sunday Fellowship)



“Bibles for Halle” keeps rolling. It is amazing how God is using this project and opening new doors. In Halle we met a Christian teacher named David from the nearby town of Koethen. **On June 6th** David will be bringing a group of 40 young people from his school to Halle. They will tour the Train Station Mission, the Soup Kitchen and an after-school care project in our low-income neighborhood. The goal is to increase their awareness for those in need and in poverty. During their lunch break David asked me (Aaron) to share my story of how I was down and out in Florida, USA and was saved at a Rescue Mission and JESUS changed my life. What a great opportunity! We have already purchased 40 “Street Bibles”, i.e. a N.T. version with exciting real life personal stories, and will offer each student a free Bible. **Please pray** for this witness. We even found a new source called “Bibles for the Nations”, where we can purchase Bibles for half the price of what we had been paying, i.e. about 3.50 Euros per Bible. We would like to order a new supply as we plan an outreach during the upcoming European Soccer Championship in Germany, June 14 to July 14, 2024. Also, we lay out Bibles at the Mission and Soup Kitchen each week along with testimony books – and they are always taken. If you would like to help with this outreach, you can send a donation to our Mission earmarked “Bibles for Halle”.

Family News: On May 11th our son Philip was married to Laura Thomas in Willingham, Cambridge, England. We praise the Lord for such a beautiful day in so many regards, and such a lovely wedding ceremony with a lunch reception afterwards. Our whole family could be there, we found a large Airbnb and really enjoyed our time together. Laura is such a special person and from a wonderful Christian family. Philip and Laura both have a real desire to serve God together. Please pray for them as they start their new married life together. There has been lots of answered prayer already!



We wish you a wonderful summer. May God richly bless all who so faithfully pray for and support missions. We praise His magnificent name for the progress in the work here and His many blessings.

Aaron and Anne Bowes

Serving with:
Grace Global Ministries
P.O. Box 12
Cedarville OH 45314

Aaron and Annegret Bowes
Walter-Gropius-Weg2
06124 Halle/Saale
Germany
Tel. 011-49-345-77402597
Bowes6@aol.com

Canadian donations:
missions3Dthreshold
1977 Snow Valley Road
Minesing, ON L9X 0H3